



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

February 17, 2006

Greetings Vermont Homeschoolers:

I am writing to make an effort to communicate directly with you and to inform you of the recent developments in the Vermont Legislature regarding the home study law. On February 9, 2006, Retta Dunlap, Director of the Home Education Network, and I described to the House Education Committee our proposal for modifications to the existing home study law.

The proposal that we presented is intended to address some of the concerns that homeschoolers have expressed to Retta and me. It stipulates that a home study program that has successfully completed two consecutive years of home study (three years during an initial transition period) will not be required to submit an annual minimum course of study except for the year in which a child reaches the age of 12. It will also exempt a home study student who is 13 years of age or older from being required to study physical education, comprehensive health education and fine arts. The proposal also calls for a specific format for teacher evaluations. Finally, it specifies and authorizes the use of certain standardized achievement tests to evaluate the progress of home study students. On February 16<sup>th</sup> the Committee unanimously approved a bill, which includes these changes, and it will now be considered by the full House of Representatives.

The proposed changes are a result of a collaborative effort over the last two years between Department of Education staff, homeschool representatives and me. After many hours of discussion, both parties have come to an agreement on the changes which should be addressed during this legislative session. I fully understand that many of you would like to see even more extensive changes to the statutes. However, I believe that the work we have done is a good first step and we can continue to discuss how the law might be further improved in the future.

DOE staff and I will continue to work with you in the support of your family's choice to homeschool your children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard H. Cate'.

Richard H. Cate  
Commissioner



# VERMONT HOME STUDY NEWSLETTER

## 2005-2006

3/1/06



### Our Physical

#### Location:

654 Granger Road  
Berlin, VT

Come up the stairs to the building, turn left into the Department of Education and ask for us at the front desk.



### Our Mailing Address:

Home Study Unit  
Vermont Department of  
Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont  
05620-2501

### Website:

[www.education.vermont.gov](http://www.education.vermont.gov)



### Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Closed weekends and  
holidays



## New Home Study Unit Staff

Last year, just as the home study enrollments began to pour in, the Home Study Unit had three new members.

**Julie Kuk**, the Home and Independent School Workgroup Coordinator, oversees home study and independent schools. Her background is in special education. During the busy enrollment season, Julie reviews enrollments and answers questions particularly relevant to children with special needs. When home study office activity quiets down, she spends more time with Pat on independent school matters. Contact Julie if you have questions about

home study and/or children with special needs. Telephone: (802) 828-5113; email:

[juliekuk@education.state.vt.us](mailto:juliekuk@education.state.vt.us)

**Karen Agnew**, the Home Study Consultant, works only in home study. Karen, and her husband, Clark, homeschooled their three children for fourteen years in Vermont. (This fall their youngest went off to college.) Contact Karen if you have questions about home study. Telephone: (802) 828-3138; email:

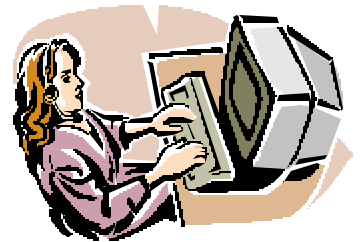
[karenagnew@education.state.vt.us](mailto:karenagnew@education.state.vt.us)

**Sharon Vivian**, our Administrative Assistant, has worked for the State of Vermont in various departments for over 25

years. She is usually the first contact you will have when you phone the unit. She is responsible for all the data entry, mailings, and in general keeps the office running efficiently. Call Sharon if you need home study materials or information. Telephone: (802) 828-3352; email:

[sharovivian@education.state.vt.us](mailto:sharovivian@education.state.vt.us)

You can reach someone by telephone or email between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



## HOME STUDY SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Julie Kuk and Karen Agnew are available to come to a meeting of your local support group. At the meeting, they would be able to discuss whatever issues are important to the group members. Some examples are: end-of-the-year assessments, enrollment paperwork, problems with enrollment, homeschooling high school aged children, assistance for students with special needs, the legal aspects of homeschooling, etc. Call Karen or Julie at (802) 828-3352 if you would like them to visit your group.

# HOMESCHOOLING IN VERMONT

As of the printing date of this newsletter, we have re-

ceived enrollments for 2,063 children, from 1251 families for the 2005-2006 school year. The total enrollments for the 2004-2005 school year were for 2,094 children from 1,139 families. We

# 1050\_2000\_2063

should be close to this number by the end of this school year.

What a difference from 1982 when there were 92 children from 61 families who were homeschooling!

If you would like a chart showing the growth of homeschooling in Vermont from 1982 to 2005, please contact Sharon Vivian in the Home Study Unit, by telephone at (802)828-3352 or by email at:

[sharonvivian@education.state.vt.us](mailto:sharonvivian@education.state.vt.us)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 1:** You can submit a home study enrollment any time after this date the next school year. For example, after March 1, 2006, you can submit an enrollment for the 2006-07 school year.



**July 1:** This is the date that current home study enrollments expire. For example, if you are homeschooling this year, 2005-06, that enrollment will expire on July 1, 2006. Your child will no longer be enrolled in home study unless you submit a new enrollment for the 2006-07 school year.



**March 1- June 30:** During this timeframe, the office is not very

busy with enrollments. We are able to process enrollment notices more quickly and you are able to avoid the "back to school rush".

**June 1-October 15:** This is the busiest time for us— nearly 1500 enrollment notices usually come through the office. During this time, the office will need the full 14 business days we are allowed by statute to determine whether or not your enrollment notice is missing any of the information required by statute.

**October:** The home study unit, as required by statute, sends superintendents a list of families residing in their supervisory unions who have enrolled their children in a home study program. If you do not

submit your enrollment by October, your name may not be included on this list. The superintendent or principal in your school district may contact you to ask where your child is attending school.



**Any Time During the Year:** You may choose to enroll your child in home study any time during the school year. However, your child should continue to attend school while your paperwork is being processed and until it is complete or 45 days has passed since the enrollment was submitted. Please contact us if you have any concerns or questions about the enrollment process.



## VERMONT ACT 119



study students into the public schools by enabling their enrollment in academic courses, participation in co-curricular

Act 119 was enacted in April, 1998. It is meant "to encourage and facilitate the integration of home



and extracurricular activities, and use of public school facilities".

Once enrolled in a home study program through the Department of Education, your child is eligible to enroll as a part-time student in a school operated by his/her district of residence or, if the district does not operate a



school, in a public school for which his/her district of residence would pay the tuition. Please contact Julie (828-5113) or Karen (828-3138) if you have questions pertaining to academic, co-curricula and extracurricular activities or the use of facilities at your public school.



## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



A disability is any handicapping condition that interferes with a student's ability to participate in a minimum course of study.

If your child has a disability there are several things to consider:

- Information about your child's disability must be included with the home study enrollment notice. Additionally, you must describe in your curriculum how you will adapt the curriculum to your child's disability in each subject area. You must also describe any special services and/or supports that your child will receive.
- If you think your child may have special needs, you can request that an evaluation be done by your local school at no charge to you. This does not require that you enroll your child in the public school. Contact your local school for more information about evaluations. You can also pursue an independent evaluation through an agency of your choice.
- While homeschoolers are not entitled to special education services, the public school at their discretion, may provide special education to homeschoolers through a services plan. If your child has a disability and you would like him/her to be considered for a services plan and/or special education services, you should contact the school as soon as possible.
- If you will be using services offered by the public school, list those services in your minimum course of study. Have the school fill out Form C or Form E, whichever is appropriate, and include that form with your enrollment.
- We have a special educator on staff in the Home Study Unit who can help with adapting home study programs for students with disabilities.

ties.

Please feel free to contact Julie Kuk at 828-5113 or email:

[juliekuk@education.state.vt.us](mailto:juliekuk@education.state.vt.us) if you have questions or you would like assistance adapting your minimum course of study.

Our office also offers two resource documents. One is called *Special Needs Resource Guide for Homeschoolers* and another is called *Vermont Home Study Resource Guide*. If you would like copies of these booklets please contact the home study office at 828-3352.

Please consult pages 22-23 of the booklet, *Guidelines for Home Study in Vermont*, for more information or if you have questions about children with disabilities.



## LANGUAGE ARTS OR LITERATURE?



When preparing a minimum course of study or an end-of-the-year assessment, homeschoolers are often confused about what should be put in the area of "Literature". The two areas of the minimum course of study we are concerned about here are "basic communication skills", which includes reading, writing, and the use of numbers, and "English, American, and other literature." The "reading and writing" piece we will refer to here as "language arts". We will try to explain how these two areas differ.

Language arts would include such areas as phonics, penmanship, reading skills, reading comprehension, oral reading, speaking/listening, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics, written expression, compositions, editing, reference materials, reasoning, and/or media.

Literature includes skills/topics, names of authors to be read, book titles, and/or types of books to be read. Literature skills/topics include those that dissect and interpret the passage read. Some exam-



ples are: plot development, characterizations, author's language, author's point of view, techniques of word usage, setting, and genres.

The most common way to address literature is to provide the titles of books which you plan to have your child read for the minimum course of study, and titles that your child has read for the end-of-the-year assessment.

Please note that when your curriculum is being reviewed, we look throughout the entire minimum course of study for literature and reading topics.



## NEW ENGLAND COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (NECAP)

This past fall, you may have heard that your public school was participating in a statewide assessment program using a new battery of assessments- the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). Some parents have called our office to ask if they may use this test for their end-of-the-year assessment.

The NECAP is a series of custom-designed tests developed in collaboration with the Rhode Island

and New Hampshire Departments of Education. These are regional, criterion-referenced tests aligned to the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) developed by the three states. The NECAP measures a student's proficiency in reading, math, and writing. Reading and math are assessed at every grade-level 3-8 and writing is assessed in grades 5 and 8. This battery of tests is not given nationally and are not norm-referenced like the IOWA or CAT.

Currently, the NECAP is not acceptable as an end-of-the-year assessment. If you are interested in having your child take the tests for reasons other than the end-of-the-year assessment, just contact the principal of your local public school. The school will arrange for your child to participate at the school during the regular testing schedule in October. Results should be available shortly after the new year.



## CURRICULA SUBMISSIONS



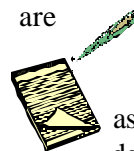
Please keep in mind that each child has a separate home study folder that includes the enrollment notice and end-of-the-year assessment for a particular school year. We need separate paperwork for each child's folder. When you list the names of all the children you are enrolling on Form A, we will put a copy in each child's folder. When you are submitting curricula for two or more children, please have the minimum course of study for each child on separate sheets. If you are using the same curriculum for more than one child, please submit a copy for each child. The practice of separating the children's material is



also important when submitting end-of-the-year assessments.

If you receive a letter saying your enrollment is incomplete, please do not assume that we do not "approve" of your program, that we think you are not doing a good job homeschooling, or that your enrollment notice was "rejected." The home study statute requires us to send homeschoolers a notice stating what is missing. The letters are not meant to be threatening or cause panic. If something is missing, please send it in. If we do not have a response to our letter (which asked for additional information) within fourteen days after the letter was sent out, we

may call or e-mail the family in an effort to complete the child's enrollment notice. If we do not get a response, and time allows us, we keep trying to make contact. We are doing this to obtain the additional information needed to complete the enrollment, thus avoiding a hearing. If you have a difficult situation (for example, you have ordered curricula materials, but they have not yet arrived) or if you are uncertain about what is needed, please contact us. We also offer technical assistance to help families develop curriculum.



## FALL SPORTS?



In order for your child to be eligible to participate in a sport in a public school you will need a copy of your complete letter for the school. Please get your enrollment notice in to our office early enough for us to get it processed before the season begins. If we have all the information needed to complete the enrollment, we can process it in fourteen business days. If we need additional information, it may take longer.



**Submit your paperwork early!**



## MAY INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO . . .



In many enrollment notices, this little phrase often precedes the topics/skills for each area of the minimum course of study.

Some may believe it means that they can cover whatever they choose as a curriculum, adding and subtracting material as the year progresses. Please remember the letter that is sent to homeschoolers after their home study program is found to be complete states that, "Your eligibility for home study is based on the following conditions: That you follow the program of study as specified in your Enrollment Notice." This statement is

derived from the home study statute, 16 V.S.A. §166b(a) (5), which requires, as part of a home study enrollment, the submission of a detailed outline or narrative which describes the content to be provided in each subject area of the minimum course of study.

We understand that curricula may be modified or expanded during a school year, but we expect that what is described in the curriculum will be addressed during the school year. End-of-the-year assessments are reviewed in light of the curriculum that was submitted for the year. Therefore, if you make substantial

changes in your curriculum during the school year, we recommend that you submit a revision to your proposed curriculum. A substantial change could be a change from the study of geometry to the study of algebra or the change from the study of United States history to world history. Addition or deletion of topics within a whole subject area (adding a study of spiders to the science area) would not be considered a substantial change. So, in summary, your curriculum should reflect the content you plan to cover during your home study enrollment year.



## HEALTH TOPICS



The home study statute includes health education as one of the areas to be covered in a home study curriculum. Many parents consider health education to be a family responsibility. Parents often comment that health topics are being addressed everyday and it is difficult to write all of these out each year. It is not necessary for you to write out an exhaustive list of health topics for the minimum course of study. Each year we would like you to cover a variety of health topics from your family's viewpoint. At the end of the year assess those areas you chose for your minimum course of study.

There are an abundance of health topics from which to choose. A definition of comprehensive health education, in addition to a list of ten areas included in this, can be found in *Guidelines for Home*

*Study in Vermont* (page 5). It is not necessary to teach the subjects specified in this definition as it applies only to public schools. However, the definition may give suggestions of topics you may want to use in your minimum course of study. Below are some health topics that have been used by other homeschoolers in Vermont:

**Grades K-3:** Good eating habits; personal hygiene and care; safety rules in a variety of situations; systems of the body; food pyramid and balanced meals; importance of posture; dental care; identifying feelings and their causes; relationships within the family; how to handle simple first aid needs; skin and muscles; cycles of life and death; preventing sexual abuse.

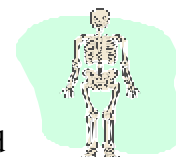
**Grades 4-6:** Life cycles of human families; respiratory system; digestive system; circulatory system; disease prevention; conse-



quences of misuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; fire safety; behaviors with strangers; safe babysitting practices; nutrients including vitamins and minerals; recognizing household poisons; physical and mental changes during adolescence; the food pyramid; health and hygiene through history.

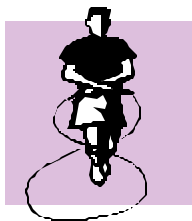


**Grades 7-8:** Review of all systems of the body; structure of viruses; aspects of good grooming and posture; prescribed drugs and natural remedies; continued study of the consequences of misuse of alcohol; understanding and dealing with emotions; coping with stress; caloric content of food; emotions and behavior; major causes of death in America; lifestyle and disease; community



*(Health Topics continued)*

health services; peer pressure and decision-making.



**Grades 9-12:** Value systems and decision making; risk taking and its effects; disease prevention methods including barriers; effects of physical fitness on health, vaccines, medicines, avoiding exposure, and personal hygiene; disease

prevention and clean water in the U.S. and foreign countries; disease caused by impure water; food choices through history; effects of overuse of antibiotics; current and historical means for controlling disease; edible and poisonous plants; VT and U.S. health plans; health-related current events.



## “WHY DO I NEED TO DO AN END-OF-THE-YEAR ASSESSMENT?”

### 2004-2005



As a result of a recent mailing from our office, we have become aware how confused many people are about what the

home study statute says about end-of-the-year assessments.

In this mailing, we reminded some parents that we had not received an end-of-the-year assessment for the 2004-2005 school year or an enrollment notice for the 2005-2006 school year.

The end-of-the-year assessment for one year is not a separate issue from the enrollment notice for subsequent years. The progress assessment is important because it is intended to verify that your student is making age and ability progress in the minimum course of study.

The home study statute requires that you submit your progress assessment for the preceding year as apart of your home study enrollment notice for the current school year: “A notice under this subsection shall include the following:...(3) For each child enrolled

during the preceding year, any assessment of progress required under subsection (d) of this section.” (16 V.S.A. §166b(a)(3)).

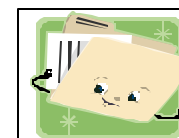
Even if you are not re-enrolling your student in home study the following year, the statute still requires an end-of-the-year assessment for the school year in which you were homeschooling. You may think it’s unnecessary to send it in, but there are some scenarios to keep in mind.

You may change your mind and decide to homeschool again in the future with the same child or another child. However, if you failed to send in a progress report before, we can’t be sure that you were providing your child with an adequate education. So, failing to send in that progress assessment may create unnecessary concerns about your abilities as a homeschooler.

Another scenario is when a student is going to attend a public or independent school and is not ever re-enrolling in home study or your student turns sixteen. In each of these situations, and end-of-the-year assessment must be completed for the

period of time in which the student is homeschooled. The home study statute states in 16 V.S.A. §166b(d): “Each home study program shall assess annually the progress of each of its students. Progress shall be assessed in each area of the minimum course of study by one or more of the following:”, and then goes on to mention several options for the end-of-the-year assessment.

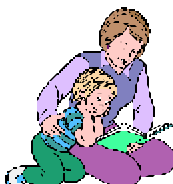
If you don’t send in a progress assessment for their last year of home study, we would not be able to provide you with a letter that states that you fulfilled the legal requirements for homeschooling in Vermont. Parents frequently ask for such letters when their student is applying to colleges.



### 2005-2006



**REMEMBER:** For any child enrolled in home study for any length of time, an end-of-the-year-assessment must be completed.



## “DID YOU RECEIVE MY PAPERWORK? IS MY HOME STUDY ENROLLMENT NOTICE COMPLETE?”

We understand how hard it is to wait for a response from us after you mail your home study enrollment. During the months of July, August, and September we process about 1,500 enrollments— that's a lot of paper work!!

Your mail first goes to our main office at 120 State Street in Montpelier, and then is delivered to our unit at 654 Granger Road, Berlin. (This may take 1-2 days).



Once your enrollment notice arrives in our office, we may need the 14 business days (during this busy time) to review the enrollment. This could be closer to three weeks, when you include weekends.

So, from the time your enrollment notice goes into the postal system until the fourteenth business day, it may be four weeks before you hear from us. If you want to know how the review is coming, **please** wait at least four weeks until you call.



## COMMENTS ON THE PARENT REPORT AND PORTFOLIO

If you submit a parent report and portfolio, please remember to:

- Make sure to include a parent report that addresses each area of the minimum course of study.
- Date and have the child's name on each piece of work.
- Make sure the portfolio samples verify that you substantially completed the curriculum that was submitted in your enrollment.
- Organize the samples by subject and by date.
- Keep your originals and send copies only.



For more detailed information about how to write a parent report and assemble a portfolio, see the *Guidelines for Home Study in Vermont*.

## HOME STUDY UNIT PUBLICATIONS

- *Guidelines for Home Study in Vermont* ( Currently being updated)
- *Vermont Home Study Resource Guide* (Currently being updated)
- *Special Needs Resource Guide for Homeschoolers*
- *Skills and Topics for Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies for Grades K-3*
- *Skills and Topics for Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies for Grades 4-6*
- *Skills and Topics for Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies for Grades 7-8*
- *Skills and Topics for Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies for Grades 9-12*





## ENROLLMENT FORMS A, B, C, D, AND E

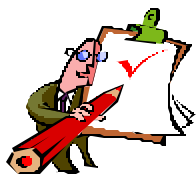
The 2006-2007 forms enclosed are be used if you plan to re-enroll your child(ren) in home study. Per home study statute, the enrollment can be filed anytime after March 1. Do not send the forms until you



are ready to submit all of your materials: 2006-2007 curriculum, 2005-2006 assess-

ment, and all other appropriate forms. Please put these forms in a safe place until you are ready to use them.

**FORM A:** Please make sure that you fill in the section on Form A that asks what public school your child would have attended if you were not homeschooling.



This information is required by the home study law. We use the information to notify the superintendents that you are homeschooling. The superintendents need to know the school name so that they can notify the local school. Please do not list a private school, a Christian school, or an out-of-state school on this line. If you are not sure what public school your child would have attended, call your superintendent. Many towns have several schools and we are unable to determine what school your child would have attended.

**Make sure all legal guardians sign Form A.** If the last name of the child and parent are **not the same**, please provide a written ex-

planation so we know that all parents with legal educational rights are informed and have signed Form A. If you have joint legal custody with a former spouse, they may share educational decision-making authority.

**FORM B:** This form is only submitted the first time you enroll a student. When you ask a professional to complete this form, bring their attention to section I. In this section the evaluator should describe the screening method used to determine whether or not the child has a handicapping condition. A doctor might mention the Denver Developmental or the Primary Observation Assessment. A licensed Vermont teacher might make reference to the Vermont



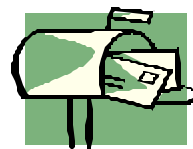
Standards, observations relative to typical age behavior, or other testing the teacher might choose to use. A special educator would use testing and terms particular to their profession.



**FORM C:** Use this form if your child is taking courses at a public or independent school. Submitting this form will let us know which courses will not be covered at home. This form would be used to indicate a child is taking academic classes as well as participating on an athletic team.



**FORM D:** If you sign Form D, your name and address will be re-



leased to people and organizations who request it. Some homeschoolers have been concerned that

if their names are released, they will receive an abundance of "junk" mail. You may receive information from museums, outdoor activity centers, organizations sponsoring contests for students, and other places of interest to homeschoolers.

**FORM E:** Some parents make arrangements to have others instruct, adapt, or supplement the instruction provided to their child, during his/her homeschooling. If you homeschool and plan to have significant amount of instruction provided by another person(s) (not in the public school) the home study statute requires that you send the information requested on this form.



### VERMONT LEGISLATION

If you are interested in reviewing bills that are proposed in the Legislature, which are relevant to homeschooling, you can access this information online at: [www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us). Go to "Legislative Information Database (Bill Tracking System)"; then, go to "Search For a Bill By Sponsor or Keyword" and enter the keyword "Education".

## VERMONT STUDIES



Vermont studies should be included in your minimum course of study every year.

We have call many parents because there is no mention of Vermont topics in their minimum course of study. The response we typically receive is “Yes, of course we do something on Vermont every year. I just forgot to write it down.” PLEASE be sure to include topics/skills for Vermont studies each year in your minimum course of study and in your end-of-the-year assessment. Here are some topics that have been studied by other homeschoolers.

**Grades K – 3:**  
Community



helpers; Vermont products (dairy, maple, lumber, slate, granite, marble, etc.); heroes and historic sites; famous Vermonters; geography and natural resources; Vermont state symbols.

**Grades 4 – 6:** History and development of the local community; elemental study of the structure of state and local government; responsibilities of town officers; groups of people who live in our town and what brought them here; geography as perceived on trips and on maps; native American civilization and Vermont history to statehood; cities and towns and how Ver-



mont fits into the regions of the United States; topographical maps of your area, surrounding areas and of the state.

**Grades 7 – 12:** Constructing a topographical map of your area; Vermont historical trends and how they fit in with United States historical trends; the Vermont State Constitution and state government; political parties and elections; town meetings; Vermont trivia; links between Vermont and the world; immigration to Vermont; interviewing senior citizens who have resided in a Vermont town their entire lives; investigation of the history of buildings in your town.

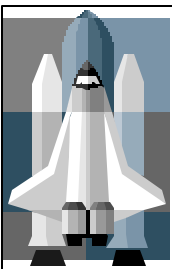


## RESOURCES FOR VERMONT STUDIES

### VERMONT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For motivated high school seniors, the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) is a great opportunity — a chance to complete the senior year of high school and the freshman year of college simultaneously. Vermonters are entitled to these two semesters tuition-free!

Each year, more than two-dozen students choose the VAST program at Vermont Technical College to complete their high school requirements. Typically, they have a strong interest and aptitude in math and science, and are willing to work hard in a demanding curriculum. After the VAST year, approximately half of the students remain at Vermont Tech to complete their degree, and half decide to enroll in another college or university. VAST is an approved independent high school with the authority to grant diplomas. It is an ideal

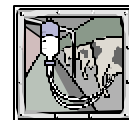


option for homeschooled students because it enables them to secure a diploma while also providing a transition to a more structured academic environment.

Here is a sampling of degree programs: dental hygiene, applied technology, dairy farm management, nursing, architectural and building engineering, construction practice and management, etc.

This year there are five homeschooled students in the VAST program on two campuses. The Williston campus is non-residential, while the Randolph campus is both residential and non-residential.

For more information about VAST, contact Diana Mellor at (802)728-1297.



## THE VERMONT FOLKLIFE CENTER



The Vermont Folklife Center (VFC), located in Middlebury, Vermont, is a non-profit organization dedicated to documenting and preserving the voices and tra-

ditions of Vermont. They are now presenting a children's book series with new web resource materials. These two books are based on true stories of real American families in New England and are recorded by folklorists. The materials provide a

unique source for teaching regional cultures and history and a context for exploring larger issues in the history and social life of the United States. For further information call (802) 388-4964, or go to their website at: [www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/childrens-books](http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/childrens-books).

## THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Vermont Historical Society is the only institution in Vermont that collects artifacts, books and documents that reflect the entire history of the state, every geographical area, and every

chronological period. They preserve the history that makes Vermont a special place to live, work, and visit. A visit to their website website will inspire you to go to the museum located in Montpelier and the library, which is located in Barre.



### The Vermont Historical Society Museum & Museum Store:

Pavilion Office Building

109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609-0901

Telephone: 802-828-2291

email: [vhs@vhs.state.vt.us](mailto:vhs@vhs.state.vt.us)

Visit online at: <http://www.vermonthistory.org>

## VERMONT DRINKING WATER WEEK Grades 4—6



The Vermont Drinking Water Week, which is held the first week of May, recognizes the efforts of public water systems to provide a safe, clean product to their customers. The week focuses on key areas such as the importance of public health protection, water conservation, source protection, and public outreach.

This year's Water Fair is scheduled for Friday May 6, 2006, on the

State House lawn in Montpelier. Events taking place at the Water Fair will include: Water Week Proclamation; educational displays; performances by the National Theatre for Children; poster contest (grades 4-6); award presentations; live music and other entertainment. For more information, contact Jessica Hill at 802-229-9111, by email at: [jhill@vlct.org](mailto:jhill@vlct.org), or at the website: [www.vtruralwater.org](http://www.vtruralwater.org)

Go to "More Information",  
"Vermont Celebrates."



## NEW ACADEMICALLY TALENTED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PROGRAM



This new outreach initiative offers Vermont high school students the opportunity to enroll in UVM courses, gain academic credits, and receive a 50% in-state student tuition-discount.

For more information call UVM Continuing Education Office at 1-800-639-3210 or go to their website at:

[www.learn.uvm.edu/?Page=talentedhs.htm](http://www.learn.uvm.edu/?Page=talentedhs.htm)

# CIVICS FOR YOU!

by Janel Johnson, Civics Education Coordinator

The Secretary of State's office is pleased to offer a variety of resources to help teach civics to your children. Many homeschoolers have used our resources and been winners of our Poster & Essay contest. We hope the following information is available.

**Vermont History Facts & Fun** Suggested Level: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. A 24-page activity book designed to make it fun to learn about Vermont history, geography, symbols and people. Includes lots of games and puzzles to engage students as they learn about the Green Mountain State.



**The Adventures of Bill: The Real-Life Account of How a Vermont Bill Becomes a Law!**

Suggested Level: 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Vermont Town Meeting Coloring & Activity Book** Suggested Level: K - 3<sup>rd</sup>

grade. This activity-packed workbook will teach our youngest Vermonters all about this unique day. The booklet also includes suggestions for classroom activities to help students experience the concepts addressed in the coloring book.

**Town Mouse & Country Mouse Go To Town Meeting** (plus Teacher's Guide) Suggested Level: 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Follow the adventures of Town Mouse and Country Mouse as they learn about the value of participatory democracy! Students will enjoy the puzzles and activities-games which will help teachers assess student learning.



**Town Meeting Day: A Vermont Tradition** (plus Teacher's Guide) Suggested Level: 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Should Town Meeting continue to be an important part of Vermont's community experience? An in-depth look at Town Meeting that will motivate students to learn more about what makes local government work.

**Vermont Votes For Kids.** Vermont Votes For Kids is a mock elections program where students participate in a curriculum about the election process and then cast their ballots on election day. Visit our Web site to

view and print curriculum materials and to order posters, stickers and buttons.

[www.vermontvotesforkids.com](http://www.vermontvotesforkids.com)

**Vermont Secretary of State's Poster and Essay Contest.** This contest is open to students at all grade levels. Younger students submit posters on official Vermont symbols or on Vermont history. Older students write essays on the Vermont Constitution and on the importance of voting to democracy. Winners and their classes are treated to a rare viewing of the Vermont Constitution at the State Archives in Montpelier.



**Kids' Page.** The Secretary of State's office "Kids' Page" features colorful artwork, easy to access information and interactive games on Vermont history, government and geography. The Kids' Page is designed to be used by students and educators to help make learning about Vermont fun. Visit the "Readers Corner" which promotes books about Vermont and by Vermont authors. Your students can submit their own book reviews and older students are invited to interview Vermont authors.



For more information about our civics resources visit [www.sec.state.vt.us](http://www.sec.state.vt.us) or contact

Janel Johnson at 802-828-1296 or email [jjohnson@sec.state.vt.us](mailto:jjohnson@sec.state.vt.us)

## VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) is a statewide organization dedicated to protecting Vermont's natural heritage through education and research, and is designed to engage individuals and communities in the active care of the environment. VINS offers numerous educational programs and special events. Some titles include *Meet the Raptor*, *Raptor Scavenger Hunt*, *Flight School* (coming in summer, 2006), and *Sojourns in the Wild*. For more information call (802) 229-6206, or go to their website at: [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org)





## THE VERMONT FARM BUREAU



### **Vermont AITC K-4 Standards-Based**

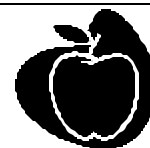
**Dairy Unit:** This curriculum helps students understand the role dairy farming has played in Vermont, how milk and other dairy products are made, and the nutritional values of these products. It is a comprehensive guide that offers year-round opportunities for in-depth hands-on learning, farm field trips, interactive web-based learning, and many other exciting activities. Cost: approximately \$5.00, plus shipping and handling.



**Vermont AITC K-8 Standards-Based Maple Unit:** This unit is divided into two sections: Grades K-4 and Grades 5-8. Every activity in each section is aligned to the Vermont Framework of Standards and corresponds with the 4-H Life Skills. The unit is designed so that educators can pick and choose specific activities or they can teach the entire unit over the course of

a few months. Cost: approximately \$5.00, plus shipping and handling.

**Ag-Tivity Book!** This coloring-style booklet is full of fun stuff for elementary age children. Included are pages on Vermont agriculture facts, Vermont state symbols, Vermont industry (apple, dairy, sheep, maple, and Morgan horse). Cost: free

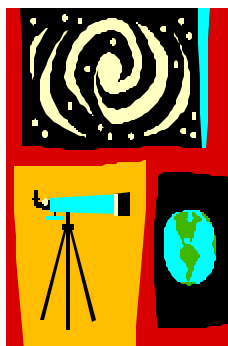


**The Vermont Maple P.Ag.E.** "The Maple P.Ag.E." is a newspaper type educational resource geared for kids, second through sixth grade. It is a brightly colored newspaper that includes small "chunks" of educational information about maple sugaring. The sections include recipes, history lessons, the science of reverse osmosis, and quotes from maple sugaring producers. Cost: free



Call the Vermont Farm Bureau at (802) 434-5646, for these fun educational materials.

## HELIX/Epsor SCIENCE OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOLS



This program is designed to offer students and teachers the opportunity to conduct research with scientists at the University of Vermont.

The program places a team of two students and a teacher in a laboratory at UVM for a week during the summer (homeschoolers are wel-

come). This week is spent with scientists learning a specific project designed to be taken back to the high school where research can be conducted through the year. Each team is loaned equipment and supplies necessary for continuing their project. The 2006-2007 program week will run from June 25 to June 30, 2007. For further information call (802)656-5467, or go to their website at: [www.uvm.edu/~helix](http://www.uvm.edu/~helix)

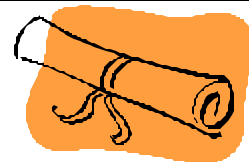
## THE GED

The General Education Diploma (GED) Testing Program may be a way for your child to obtain a certificate many colleges consider equivalent to a high school diploma.

These tests make it possible for qualified individuals to earn a high school credential.

The GED tests are internationally recognized. They have been designed to measure major academic skills and knowledge in core areas that are learned during the four years of high school.

When a child passes the 7.5 hour GED battery of tests, the resulting GED credential certifies that he/she has attained subject matter, knowledge, and skills associated with high school completion. The subject areas included on the GED tests include: language arts/writing, social studies, science, language arts/reading, and mathematics. For more information go to the Department of Education Web site ([www.education.vermont.gov](http://www.education.vermont.gov)), Adult Learning, GED, or call Beverly Willey at (802) 828-5161.





## CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION Grades 9—12

The Congressional Art Competition marks its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Monday, May 8, 2006. This is a nationwide high school art competition sponsored in Vermont by Senator Jim Jeffords.

Students from Vermont and across the country compete in local art competitions held in each district. The competition is open to Vermont high school students only. The follow-up to the state competitions will be a year-long

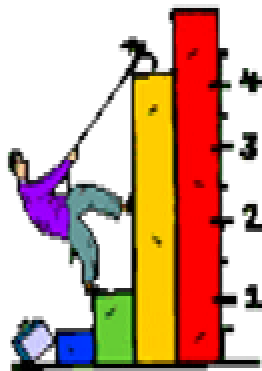
national exhibit in Washington, D.C., that will open in June, 2006. Art categories are paintings, drawings, 2-D collage, prints, mixed media, computer generation and photography.

Artwork submissions must be received in one of Senator Jefford's Vermont offices (Burlington, Montpelier, or Rutland) no later than April 12, 2006.

For rules, registration forms, or more information call Molly McFaun, in Senator Jefford's office in Montpelier, at (802) 223-5273.



## RISE TO THE CHALLENGE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



The Vermont State Colleges are pleased to announce "Rise to the Challenge", a new pilot program designed to challenge

high school students through college-level learning. VSC is offering the following programs, tuition-free, to eligible students:

**Introduction to College Studies:** 13-week class designed to help students develop strategies for college success. No cost to students.

**Dual Enrollment Voucher:** Students who successfully complete

Introduction to College Studies can apply for a VSC Rise to the Challenge Dual Enrollment Voucher to take a course at a state college tuition-free.

**Accelerated Programs :** Designed for seniors who have exhausted curricular options at their high school. A limited number of tuition vouchers are available for seniors who can demonstrate prerequisites to available courses.

"Rise to the Challenge" will be available at no cost for a limited time only. High school students in their junior or senior year may enroll. Contact your local high school guidance counselor or one of the VSC representatives listed below.

**Castleton State College:** Maurice

Ouimet (802)468-1352 or [maurice.ouimet@castleton.edu](mailto:maurice.ouimet@castleton.edu)

**Community College of Vermont:** Gail Albert (802)651-1538 or [albertg@mail.ccv.vsc.edu](mailto:albertg@mail.ccv.vsc.edu) or contact the CCV office nearest you. Go to the CCV website: [www.ccv.edu](http://www.ccv.edu)

**Johnson State College:** Penny Howrigan 1-800-635-2356 or [howrigap@jsc.vsc.edu](mailto:howrigap@jsc.vsc.edu)

**Lyndon State College:** Michelle McCaffrey (802)626-6415 or [michelle.mccaffrey@lyndonstate.edu](mailto:michelle.mccaffrey@lyndonstate.edu)

**Vermont Technical College:** Christy Fry (802)728-1798 or [cfry@vtc.edu](mailto:cfry@vtc.edu)

Rise to the Challenge is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a limited time.

## CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM

The mission of the Captioned Media Program (CMP) is to provide all persons who are deaf or hard of hearing awareness of and equal access to communication and learning through the use of captioned educational media and supportive collateral materials. The CMP also acts as a captioning information and training cen-

ter. The ultimate goal of the CMP is to permit media to be an integral part in the lifelong learning process for all stakeholders in the deaf and hard of hearing community: adults, students, parents, and educators. <http://www.cfv.org>



## **Enrollment Notice Forms**

Form A: Cover Sheet for Home Study Enrollment

Form B: Identified Screening by an Independent  
Professional

Form C: Home Study/Public/Independent School Course  
Notification Form

Form D: Consent for Release of Information

Form E: Home Study Instructor(s)

Outline for the Minimum Course of Study

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COVER SHEET FOR HOME STUDY ENROLLMENT

SCHOOL YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE OF ENROLLMENT: NEW \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILD(REN) TO BE ENROLLED:** RE-ENROLLMENT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ /AGE \_\_\_\_\_ /DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ /AGE \_\_\_\_\_ /DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ /AGE \_\_\_\_\_ /DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ /AGE \_\_\_\_\_ /DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional

**PARENTS OR GUARDIANS MUST SIGN THIS FORM** *(NOTE: both parents/guardians must sign, including those who are divorced but share the legal care and custody of the child(ren)):*

NAME _____	NAME _____
MAILING _____	MAILING _____
ADDRESS _____	ADDRESS _____

_____ (Including zip)	_____ (Including zip)
PHONE (H) _____ (W) _____	PHONE (H) _____ (W) _____

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN OF RESIDENCE OF CHILD(REN): \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSON(S) WHO WILL PROVIDE THE INSTRUCTION:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLIC SCHOOL YOUR CHILD WOULD HAVE ATTENDED** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES LISTED BELOW:**

**I have included the following:**

- ? Form A (Enrollment Notice)
- ? A school report card, Form B, **or** other information to verify that my child does or does not have a disability. (New enrollments only)
- ? An assessment of progress made in last year's home study program. See Page 4 of the *Guidelines for Home Study in Vermont*. (Re-enrollments only)
- ? A curriculum covering the 6 areas required by statute. See Page 19 of the *Guidelines for Home Study in Vermont*.
- ? Form C if my child is taking some courses at a public or private school.
- ? Form D if I want to put my name on a list of homeschoolers, given out to those who request it.
- ? Form E if my child has home study instructors other than us, the parents.

-----For Office Use Only-----

PS: \_\_\_\_\_ NR: \_\_\_\_\_ #SC: \_\_\_\_\_ SEC: \_\_\_\_\_ EOYA: PF PR TL TS CS

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
HOME STUDY PROGRAM

## INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL EVIDENCE REPORTING FORM

TO BE FILLED OUT &amp; SIGNED BY AN EDUCATION OR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I. Describe the screening method used to determine whether or not this child has a handicapping condition or is in need of further evaluation to determine whether or not there is a handicapping condition that would interfere with his/her ability to learn. Please be specific.

Date seen : \_\_\_\_\_

II. Did the results of the screening process indicate that the child has a handicapping condition that would interfere with his/her ability to learn?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

III. In your opinion, is there a need for further evaluation to determine whether or not this child has a handicapping condition that would interfere with his/her ability to learn? If yes, what are your specific recommendations?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSES TAKEN IN PUBLIC/INDEPENDENT SCHOOL**

As more and more people are homeschooling, some parents are making arrangements at their local public school for their children to take one or more courses while homeschooling. If you are planning to homeschool and have your child take a course at a public or independent school, please state in your minimum course of study which areas will be covered at the school. Also, have the school fill out this form and submit it with your minimum course of study.

\_\_\_\_\_ will be taking the following  
(Child's Name)

course(s) at \_\_\_\_\_  
( Name of School)

School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Courses: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**FORM D**

**CONSENT FOR RELEASE  
OF INFORMATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize the Vermont Department of Education to include my name and address on mailing lists that are given to the public upon request. I understand that if I agree to have my name included, my name will be released to any individual, group, or organization that requests a list of homeschoolers.

I understand that I am not required to give my consent and this decision is voluntary on my part. I also understand that once my name is given pursuant to this consent form, a decision to withdraw my consent will not necessarily remove my name from mailing lists already released to individuals, groups, or organizations.

This consent is valid for the period from this date until **December 31, 2007**.

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**HOME STUDY INSTRUCTOR(S)**

Some parents are making arrangements to have others instruct or supplement the instruction provided to their child(ren), during his/her homeschooling. If you homeschool and plan to have any ongoing instruction in the area outlined in your curriculum provided by another person(s) other than yourself, the Home Study statute requires that you complete the information requested below. This form needs to accompany the minimum course of study you send to the Department when you enroll your child(ren) in home study.

**NOTE: If your child(ren) is homeschooling and is also taking courses in a public/independent school, you will report this information on Form C, not Form E.**

\_\_\_\_\_ will be receiving instruction from the following persons:  
(Child's name)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Instruction Provided: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Instruction Provided: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## MINIMUM COURSE OF STUDY (CURRICULUM)

(You may use separate pages or another way of describing the curriculum if you wish.)

**Please send a detailed outline or narrative which describes the content to be provided in each area of the minimum course of study below.**

**1. BASIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS**, including reading, writing, and the use of numbers.

(Describe the skills or topics to be covered in **Language Arts** (*Reading and Writing*) in such areas as phonics, penmanship, reading skills, reading comprehension, oral reading, speaking/listening, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics, written expression, compositions, editing, reference materials, reasoning, and/or media, etc.

Describe the skills or topics to be covered in **Math** (*Use of numbers*). Areas of study may include numeration, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, time, measurement, geometric concepts, algebraic concepts, trigonometric concepts, etc.);

2. **CITIZENSHIP, HISTORY & GOVERNMENT** in Vermont and the United States.

(Describe the skills or topics to be covered in **Citizenship, History, & Government** (*Social Studies*) in such areas as specific eras in history of Vermont, the United States, and/or the world, cultures, communities, and traditions, geography, economics, government, law, etc.);

3. **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION** including the effects of

tobacco, alcoholic drinks, and drugs on the human system and on society.

(Describe the skills or topics to be covered in **Physical Education** in such areas as sports activities, exercise routines, lessons involving physical activities such as gymnastics or dance, motor skill development activities, etc.;

Describe the skills or topics to be covered in **Health** in such areas as body structure and function, community health, safety and first aid, diseases, family and mental health, personal and consumer health human growth and development, drugs and alcohol, and nutrition, etc.);

4. **ENGLISH, AMERICAN & OTHER LITERATURE**

(Describe the skills or topics to be covered in **Literature** in such areas as plot development, characterizations, author's language, author's point of view; or list the authors, titles, and/or genres to be studied, etc.);

5. **THE NATURAL SCIENCES** and

(Describe the skills or topics to be covered in **Science** in such areas as scientific processes, the scientific method, discoveries and inventions, scientists, chemistry, biology, earth science, physical science, physics etc.);

6. **THE FINE ARTS**

(Describe the skills or topics to be covered in **Fine Arts** in such areas as: visual arts, music, drama, dance, painting, pottery, crafts, music lessons, attend performing arts events, etc.).





**Department of Education  
Home Study Unit  
120 State Street  
Montpelier VT  
05620-2501**



**WWW.EDUCATION.  
VERMONT.GOV**

**PLEASE !**  
**SUBMIT YOUR HOME  
STUDY ENROLLMENT  
EARLY !**

**Vermont Department of Education  
Home Study Unit  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501**

MAILING LABEL